

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the interior cavity is partitioned into a plurality of cavities.
3. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the housing defines a plurality of cavities that accommodate multiple pin connectors attached to the circuit board.
4. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the mechanism for removably securing the housing over the pin connector comprises an aperture for engaging a structure on the circuit board.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the aperture has an irregular shape to create an interfering fit with the structure on the circuit board.
6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a second mechanism to enable removal of the housing from around the pin connector.
7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the second mechanism to enable removal comprises a projection extending from a surface of the housing.

8. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the second mechanism to enable removal comprises a pair of projections extending from a surface of the housing.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the housing is formed of a semi-rigid material.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the housing is formed of a resin.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the housing is formed with an injection-molding process.

12. (Previously amended) An apparatus for protecting one or more pin connectors each having a plurality of electrically conductive pins on a circuit board comprising:

- (a) [[a]] an at least semi rigid housing defining an interior cavity sized to surround at least one pin connector;
- (b) a mechanism for removably securing the housing over the pin connector without contacting any of the electrically conductive pins; and
- (c) an aperture defined by a housing wall and extending through the interior cavity but isolated from the interior cavity by the housing wall.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the mechanism for removably securing the housing to the pin connector comprises a plurality of apertures.

14. (Previously amended) An apparatus for protecting one or more electrical pin connectors each having a plurality of electrically conductive pins on a circuit board comprising:

- (a) [[a]] an at least semi rigid housing means for defining an interior cavity and for receiving at least one pin connector;
- (b) a mechanism for removably securing the housing means over the pin connector without contacting any of the electrically conductive pins;

(c) a second mechanism for aligning the interior cavity of the housing means with the pin connector; and

(d) an aperture defined by a wall of the housing means and extending through the interior cavity and isolated from the interior cavity by the wall.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the second mechanism for aligning comprises at least one wall of the housing shaped to mimic a feature of one of the pin connector and circuit board.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the second mechanism for aligning comprises at least one fin projecting from a surface of the housing to facilitate handling thereof.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the mechanism for aligning comprises at least one aperture shaped to accommodate a feature of one of the pin connector and circuit board.

18. (Previously amended) In a computer system having a circuit board and one or more electrical pin connectors each having a plurality of electrically conductive pins affixed thereon, a method for preventing damage or contamination of the pin connector comprising:

(a) providing a protective cover having [[a]] an at least semi rigid housing with an interior cavity defined therein, an aperture defined by a wall of the housing and extending through the interior cavity and isolated from the interior cavity by the housing wall, and mechanisms for aligning the protective cover with features of the circuit board and for removably securing the protective cover over the pin connector without contacting any of the electrically conductive pins of the pin connector;

(b) aligning the protective cover with features on one of the circuit board and pin connector; and

(c) removably securing the protective cover adjacent the circuit board so that the pin connector is disposed within the interior cavity of the protective cover.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the features comprise a cylindrical projection and wherein the mechanism for aligning comprises an arcuate-shaped surface on the protective cover, and wherein (b) comprises:

(b.1) aligning the protective cover with the features so that the cylindrical projection is disposed along the arcuate surface of the protective cover.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the features comprise a cylindrical projection and wherein the mechanism for removably securing comprises an irregular shaped aperture within the protective cover, and wherein (c) comprises:

(c.1) disposing the cylindrical projection within the irregular shaped aperture to frictionally secure the cylindrical projection therein when the pin connector is disposed within the cavity.

21. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 12 in combination with a pin connector disposed within the interior cavity of the housing.

22. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 14 in combination with a pin connector disposed within the interior cavity of the housing means.

23. (Currently amended) An apparatus for protecting one or more pin connectors each having a plurality of electrically conductive pins on a circuit board comprising:

(a) [[a]] an at least semi rigid housing having a housing wall defining a plurality of interior cavities, each of the interior cavities sized to surround at least one pin connector;

(b) a mechanism for removably securing the housing over the circuit board without contacting any of the electrically conductive pins; and

(c) a mechanism for aligning the plurality interior cavities with [[a]] the plurality of pin connectors.